

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This invention provides a system and method for selecting and communicating a single disk (a "coredump disk") for use in a coredump procedure by a failed file server (or filer). A selection method on the failed filer determines the "best candidate" coredump disk according to a predetermined set of criteria. For example, the available disks that can receive coredump data are located and ordered so as to prefer disks that best match the coredump data size requirement, are least likely to be needed for normal service by the server; and require the least preparation to receive coredump data. Appropriate attributes on the selected coredump disk are written to indicate that a coredump is in progress, and the location of the coredump data. Upon reboot of the failed filer (or takeover by a cluster partner), the coredump disk is identified and the coredump data recovered by reading back appropriate attributes.